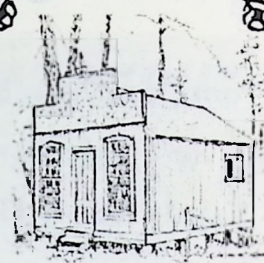


Newsletter of the

BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

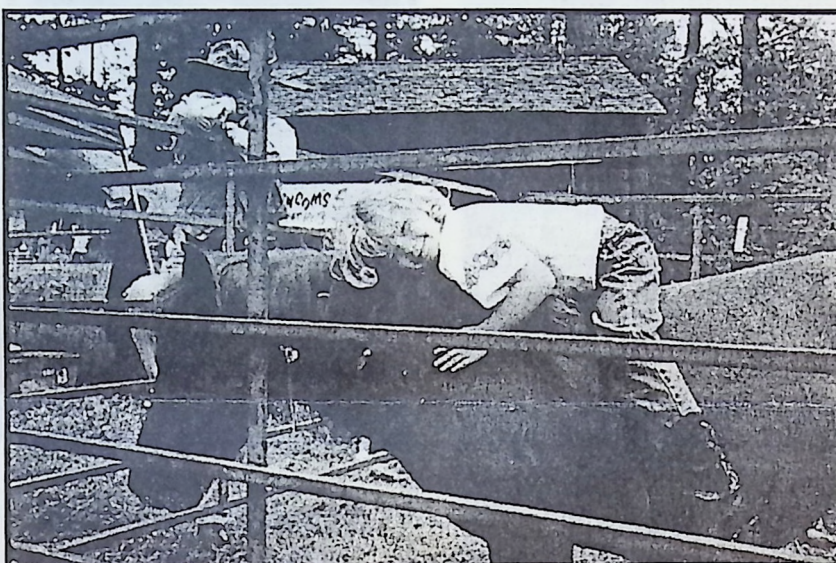
August 1998



IT'S GETTING TO BE AN OLD STORY -- ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BUNCOM DAY

We took the old phrase -- "something old, something new" -- and put it to work at the fifth Annual Buncom Day in May. The something old? We brought back the parade, and it was a hit as it had been at our Centennial celebration. The something new? The barbecue, prepared this year by the Upper Applegate Grange, went to support our Rural Action law enforcement team.

A happy family crowd of some 500-600 people enjoyed the daylong activities that included many of the long-time favorites -- the World Famous Buncom Chicken Splat Contest, the Country Store, great music by Good Comp'ny, wonderful craft vendors and artists, the Friends of the Library Ruch book sale, informational dis-



Now THAT'S having a good time at Buncom Day!

plays and all the other things that have brought people back to Buncom year after year.

The parade was led on horseback by Mary Anne League of Sutherlin who wore the same Hollywood-designed outfit she wore 20 years ago when riding in the Pasadena Rose Parade.

Special thanks once again to Chair Donna Epstein, who once again put everything together seamlessly, and to Meyera Robbins for taking charge of the Country Store.

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SHOW

The Trail Band, a great musical group out of Portland that specializes in old-time music, will present a special Christmas Show at the Craterian Theater in Medford on Friday, Dec. 4. We're planning to get a block of tickets for a Buncom group to go to the performance. For details, see inside.

OUR NEW LOOK

We don't really have to tell you that the newsletter has a new look -- it's pretty obvious. After several years in the same format the editor decided it's time for a change. We welcome your comments on the new format.

From Buncom's history:

How did Buncom get its name?

The short answer is simple: Nobody knows! The name Buncom first appeared as a mining district in 1867, so obviously it was already in use by that time. But how the name came about is lost in history. There are several theories, though, and here are some of them:

- Buncom is where they "bunked 'em" -- the miners who frequented Buncom in the early days.
- Buncom was a form of "bunco," a descriptive word for a fraud.
- Buncom was a derogative term that means "a lot of hooley."
- A lot of Chinese miners roamed the gold fields in and around Buncom, and the name was their attempt to pronounce the name of one of the leading citizens of the time (but no one knows who that might have been).
- Buncom was named for Buncombe County, North Carolina -- a lot of the early settlers came from North Carolina.

At various times in the 19th century, Buncom was also known as Bunkum and Bunkumville. But whatever its origination, "Buncom" -- the original spelling of the mining district -- is the only place in the United States spelled exactly that way.

Have you heard of any other theories about how Buncom got its name? Let us know.

Thanks to Our Sponsors



As usual, Good Comp'ny was on hand at Buncom Day to play their fine brand of music to the delight of everyone present.

COMMENTS FROM THE INTERNET

The Buncom internet site continues to attract visitors. Recently we received the following e-mail:

"I have lived in Applegate for the last 16 years and have never heard of Buncom. I am also ashamed that I have degrees in history and archaeology from OSU and still have never heard of Buncom. My mother and brother still live in Applegate (I'm now in Portland and wishing I was in Applegate) and I'm going to check with them to see if they have heard of Buncom and then yell at them if they have and didn't tell me."

Many Have Supported Us in the Past

A number of businesses and organizations helped us out on Buncom Day, and we are grateful for their participation and support. Many of them have supported Buncom Day for several years. We hope you'll remember their generosity to the Society when you need the products or services they provide.

They included:

- Country Farm Center, Medford
- Grange Co-op
- 4-H/FFA
- Pine Cone Inn
- Superior Air Charter
- Siskiyou Buckle Co.
- Tobiano's
- Bella Union
- Carole's Creations
- Checkerboard Square (Ron and Martha McKay)

And of course, thanks to all of you who donated items to the ever-popular Country Store!

Buncom to be Featured on Jefferson Public Radio

Recently, Society directors Reeve Hennion and J.B. Roberts were interviewed for a special series on Jefferson Public Radio on ghost towns.

A special segment on Buncom, its history, and the Society and its activities will be one part of the series.

We don't know just when the interview will be on, but listen for it!

The Dash

*I read of a man who stood
to speak
at the funeral of his
friend.*

*He referred to the dates on
his tombstone
from the beginning... to the
end.*

*He noted that first came the
date of his birth
and spoke of the second
with tears.*

*But he said that what mat-
tered most of all
was the dash between those
years.*

*For that dash represents all
the time
that he spent alive on earth.
And now only those who
loved him
know what that little line is
worth.*

*For it matters not, how
much we own,
the cars, the house, the
cash.*

*What matters is how we live
and love
and how we spend our dash.*

*So think about this long and
hard.*

*Are there things you'd like
to change?*

*For you never know how
much time is left.
(You could be at "dash mid-
range.")*

*If we could just slow down
enough to consider
what's true and what's real,
And always try to under-
stand
the way other people feel.*

*And... be less quick to an-
ger,
and show appreciation
more.*

*And love the people in our
lives
like we've never loved be-
fore.*

*If we treat each other with
respect,*

JOIN US FOR A BUNCOM NIGHT WITH "THE TRAIL BAND"

(Continued from previous column)

*and more often wear a
smile.
Remembering that this spe-
cial dash
might only last a little
while.*

*So when your eulogy is be-
ing read
with your life's actions to re-
hash...*

*Would you be pleased with
the things they say
about how you spent your
dash?*

-- Author unknown

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The Buncom Historical Society is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving the buildings and history of the ghost town of Buncom, Oregon. Society address: 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530

On the Internet:
www.mind.net/buncom/

On the evening of Friday, Dec. 4, "The Trail Band" will perform an old-fashioned, down-home Christmas show in pioneer style at The Craterian Theater in Medford. We're reserving a block of tickets for Society members and hope you'll join us.

If you're not familiar with The Trail Band, it's a group of about 15 members from Portland which has been performing "Voices from the Oregon Trail," a musical play commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Oregon Trail, since 1991. The group has performed throughout the country, and helped kick off the Craterian's inaugural season in Medford last year.

Now they're coming back with their annual pioneer Christmas show. It's described as "guaranteed not only to get you in the holiday spirit but to transport you to an earlier time when Christmas was more than a commercial sensation."

Sound like fun? Your board of directors thinks so, and we're putting together a block of tickets at a discount to offer Society members so we can go in a group.

Tickets, including the discount, are \$16.20 each for orchestra seating.

If you'd like to go, make a check out to "Buncom Historical Society" for \$16.20 for a single ticket, \$32.40 for a pair, and mail it to the Society at 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530. If you'd like more information, call Lyn Hennion at 899-7656.

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Just hangin' out at Buncom Day